

NEBRASKA

WEATHER & CROPS

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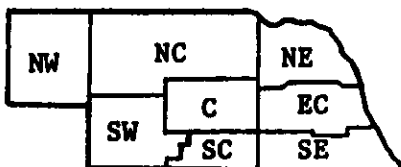
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Release 4/5/82 - 3:00 p.m.

Period Ending 4/4/82

Economics, Statistics, & Cooperatives Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
and U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin.
National Weather Service



Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Division of Agr'l. Statistics
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WEATHER

It was a very mild week until the weekend when a strong storm system passed through the state. High winds battered the state from the Panhandle to the Missouri River. Temperatures averaged 3 to 6 degrees above normal. Widespread precipitation both at the beginning and end of the week ranged from less than a tenth of an inch up to a half an inch.

GENERAL

Temperatures during March were just above normal in Nebraska. Precipitation was widespread; however, accumulations varied widely from about a half inch over the Panhandle to over three inches in parts of the southeast. Fieldwork was underway in western areas as the month came to a close with much of the ground preparation completed for planting of sugar beets. Wet conditions in the eastern half of the state kept most farmers out of the fields. Gusty winds during the last of March dried topsoils quickly and caused soil erosion in some unprotected fields in western counties. Some wheat fields and other acreage being prepared for spring plantings were reported as having blown badly.

Topsoil moisture supplies rated 17% short, 79% adequate, and 4% surplus. Subsoil supplies were 14% short, 85% adequate, and 1% surplus. Driest topsoil conditions were reported in the Panhandle and the southwest with about 85% short.

A year ago, topsoil moisture was 51% short, 47% adequate, and 2% surplus and subsoil moisture was 91% short and only 9% adequate.

CROPS

The 1982 winter wheat crop condition rated 10% poor, 25% fair, 59% good, and 6% excellent. The rating declined from last month but continues well above last year's ratings. As the crop greened up, some areas of winter kill and root and crown rot were appearing. These conditions coupled with the high winds of late March accounted for the crop's lower condition rating.

Oats seeding was about 5% complete as the month closed compared to 45% seeded last year and 15% normal. Most ground preparation has been completed for sugar beet planting, but fieldwork activities have been limited to keeping fields from blowing.

LIVESTOCK

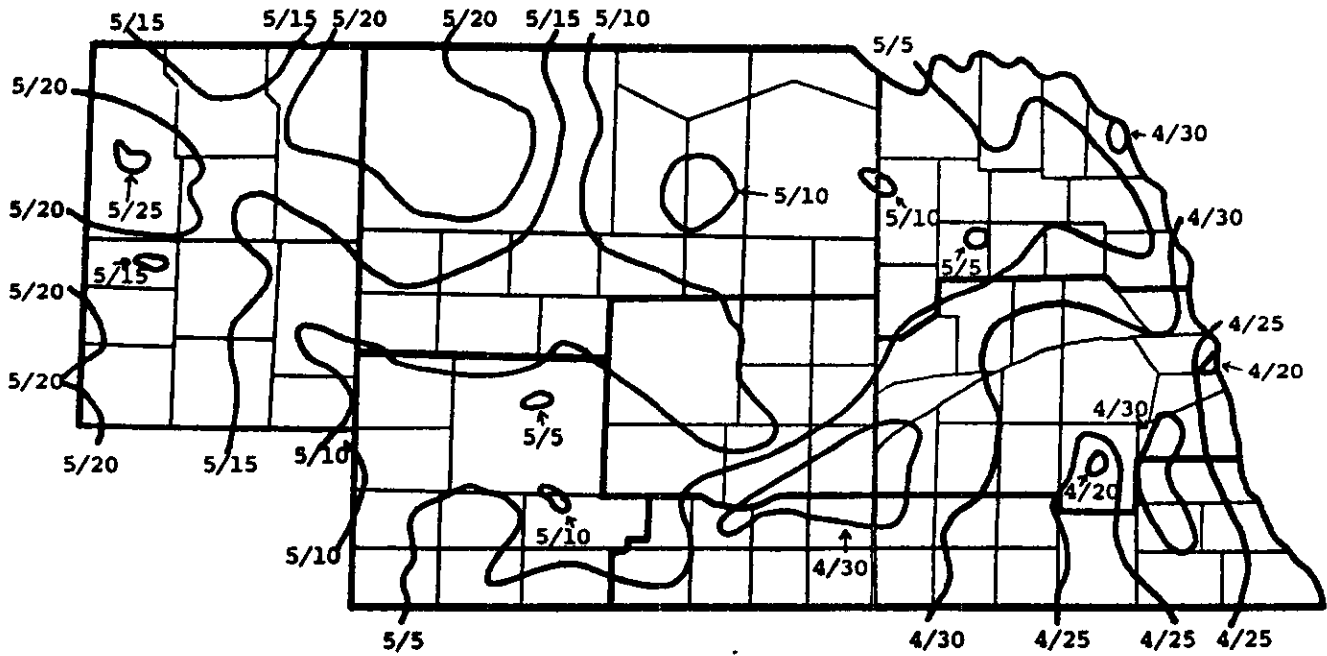
Mild conditions during March helped ranchers attain good calving success with most areas over 50% complete. With cool season grasses just beginning to green up, pasture and range feed supplies rated short to mostly adequate statewide. Shortest supplies were evident in the Panhandle and north central counties. Producers were busy hauling livestock manure as the drying conditions permitted access to cropland.

* NOTE: The Nebraska Weekly Weather and Crop Report will *
* begin on April 26. This is later than last year *
* due to budget constraints and a slower developing *
* spring season. *

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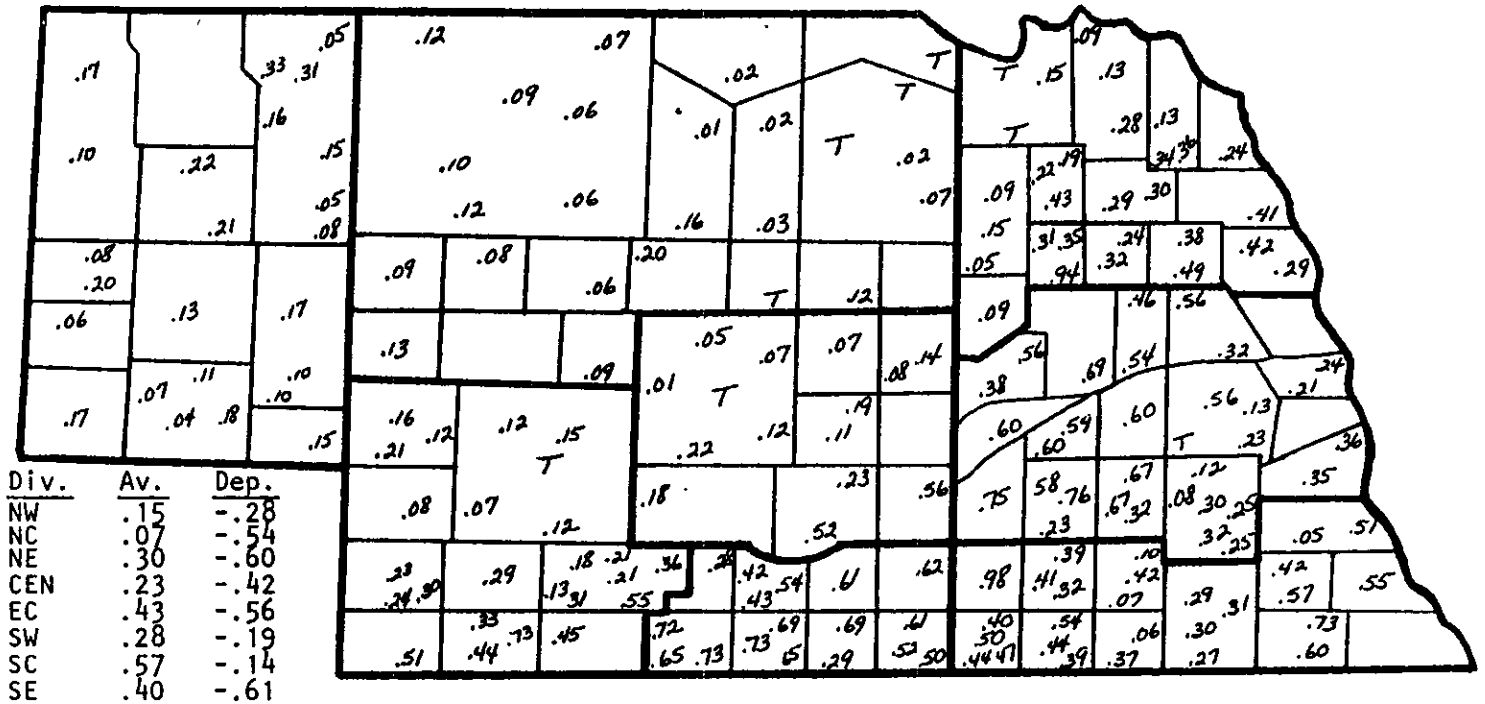
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NEBRASKA--AVERAGE DATE OF LAST 32°F TEMPERATURE IN SPRING 1/



1/ Map based on data from the 50-year period 1921-1970.

PRECIPITATION MAP FOR MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1982 1/



1/ Courtesy Center for Agricultural Meteorology and Climatology, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, The University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 1982

